

Yesterday for the first time in a long while, the gong rang on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. That meant "stop trading for a minute; one of you is dead." In the silence came the announcement that a firm had failed. Considering what the stock market has recently done to its friends, the wonder is that failures are so few. The Federal Reserve, which many financiers fought bitterly, is now saving their lives, and all the new money printed during the war dance helps to hold things up.

The question everybody asks is, "What is going to happen next?" What people want is something encouraging in a landslide. Here's a paragraph from a letter written by M. Cresap, of Chicago:

"It looks to us from our point of vantage here that the country is getting through the sharp fall in commodity prices very successfully. We look for a very large distribution in the early part of 1921."

Mr. Cresap is the youthful dynamo in a huge concern that employs thousands of operators and does many millions of business a year. Merchants who know him will be encouraged by his view.

Have you any sugar stocks? Get yourself a little rabbit's foot for each share.

They say the wonder workers of the East, and some "cure you while you wait" gentlemen in the West, eventually come to believe in their own miracles.

Sugar profiteers, having pushed sugar up to 25 cents a pound, persuaded themselves that it would stay there forever, and plunged accordingly.

Some of them know (or soon will know) the feeling of the tipsy gentleman that dived into the swimming pool when the water was all out.

To buy "any old" sugar outfit in the Caribbean at "any old price" is diving into the empty tank.

Prof. O. H. S., principal of a big public school, suggests a cartoon and editorial based on Aesop's fable about the man and the forest.

The man didn't want much from the forest—just a little piece of hardwood to make a handle for his ax. That seemed reasonable—and the forest let him have it.

What the man did want was that forest with the ax handle, plus the ax head, was plentiful.

It's a lucky thing for this country that the American forests of men and millions did not give to John Bull and his European friends the League of Nations ax handle that they wanted.

Senator Thomas of Colorado put it mildly when he said that the Steel Trust conspiracy to ruin labor unions was vicious.

The extraordinary thing is not the underhand scheming of the trust, but rather the stupidity of that trust.

What owners of big industries need, above all, is respect for law. They have GOT their billions. They have floated their watered stocks. They have taken advantage of war conditions to put prices up. They are chiefly interested in BEING LET ALONE.

They will not be let alone if they indulge in bold efforts to ruin workmen's organizations, in complete disregard of law and decency.

The puzzling feature of the crime wave—what is a REAL crime—is the fact, reported simultaneously by the police of Boston and of San Francisco, that crime has increased with prohibition.

Prohibition has had something to do with crimes requiring coolness and boldness. In old days the criminal, always a weak creature mentally, shot his weakness in drunkenness. Then he lacked coolness and cold resolution necessary in sensational crime.

Today there are thousands of distorted minds, no longer able to find relief in the oblivion of alcohol. They are among the new criminals.

However, the part played in crime's increase by prohibition is much exaggerated. Money has been very "easy" wages high, anybody could make twice as much as he ever made. All the unbalanced immediately concluded that war wages would last forever, and developed ways of spending twice what they ever spent. From that what they did change in shirts, and from working to pre-tending to work was the mental change.

Suddenly reality comes stalking back. Wages drop, work becomes scarce. The spending habit demands satisfaction—hence the crimes.

The wonder is, all the nations having set the example of killing, stealing, and squandering, that crimes are so few. Severe punishment, without harshness or revenge, will help. Slowly the people will learn, again, that for the average man, you must WORK if you want to live in this world.

Bear in mind that the chief criminal is the government that licensed shameless profiteering and extravagance with its "cost plus" system of robbing the public purse.

WARNS LEAGUE FACES WRECK

Arbitrary Domination by Council May Be Deathblow, Says Lord Cecil.

MAKES BITTER ATTACK

Assembly Rejects Rumanian Plea to Send International Army to Armenia.

GENEVA, Dec. 18.—Rumania's proposal to send an international army to the relief of Armenia was rejected by the Assembly of the League of Nations today.

The Assembly adopted a committee report on the Rumanian mandate leaving it to the council to fix the terms of the mandate.

The mandate committee expressed the hope that mandatory powers will not increase their military forces by conscripting natives in the countries for which they hold mandates nor exploit the natural resources.

Haiti asked for appointment of a commission to investigate the treatment of natives by the mandatory powers, but the assembly voted it down.

GENEVA, Dec. 18.—Solemn warning that the League of Nations may break up if the League council continues arbitrary domination was sounded today by Lord Robert Cecil, representative of South Africa at the Assembly meeting and one of the chief founders of the League.

BITTER ATTACK.

Lord Robert Cecil delivered a bitter attack against the council for refusing to deliver secret mandate drafts to the assembly for open consideration. He charged that the council had been stripped of power over the important mandate question by the action of the council.

"The League of Nations is entering a critical stage," said Lord Robert Cecil. "If the council is not careful it will plunge the league into disastrous failure."

"The world will be disappointed over the assembly's failure on the mandate question," said Charles J. Doherty, of the Canadian delegation.

A. J. Balfour, of the British delegation, took issue with the critics of the council's handling of the mandates.

"The British view is that the council alone is responsible for the former German colonies," said Mr. Balfour. "The assembly may adopt a mandate for the colonies, but if so Great Britain will announce reservations."

CLEAN UP ROUTINE.

As this was the last day of the assembly meeting, the delegates met especially early to clean up routine matters.

Many of the delegates will leave Geneva in a hostile mood over the mandate question. The assembly was ignored completely. The mandate decisions of the inter-allied supreme council and the League of Nations Council have been put into effect despite protests from assembly members.

This repeats Germany's contention that the mandates for the former German colonies should be handled by the League of Nations instead of by the big powers controlling the supreme council. Germany threatened to break the treaty of Versailles unless her protest was heeded, but it was ignored. All indications of the closing session of the assembly meeting are that the fight to give the assembly equal power with the council will be resumed at the next meeting.

DEFER SHANTUNG ISSUE.

Dr. Wellington Koo, former Chinese ambassador to the United States and head of the Chinese delegation to the League of Nations meeting, announced at the final session of the assembly today that China has decided to await a more favorable time to press for evacuation of the Shantung peninsula by the Japanese.

Delegates from former enemy countries sat in the League of Nations meeting for the first time today. Representatives from Austria and Bulgaria were present. Some of the smaller states that were admitted to the League had representation also.

FOUND—Remarkable New Statue of Augustus Caesar. The Man Who Conquered the World. See the Sunday Times.

A Christmas Suggestion
A present that will be welcome day by day. That will be new all the time.

THE TIMES
HERE Delivered, \$7.20 a Year
AWAY By Mail \$10.50 a Year

House Passes D. C. Bill Carrying \$19,000,000 Under 60-40 Tax Plan

Carrying more than \$19,000,000 for District needs, to be apportioned under the 60-40 plan, the District of Columbia Appropriation Bill passed the House today without a record vote.

Practically the only reductions made in the bill as reported from committee was the elimination of the \$120 bonus for firemen and policemen and \$35,000 for the support for community centers at the public schools.

These items were knocked out on points of order made by Congressman Walsh of Massachusetts.

Members of the Appropriation Committee declared today the firemen and policemen would receive probably a \$240 bonus under the legislative and judicial and executive bill, along with other employees of the Government.

Congressman Walsh also knocked out of the bill at the last minute a legislative item giving the District Commissioners power to enforce the street car company with tracks on Highway Bridge to pay a tax of one-half of a cent for each passenger it carries across the bridge.

Another item knocked out by Mr. Walsh transferred the jurisdiction over the highway bridge to the District Commissioners.

Congressman Walsh of Massachusetts, Republican watch-dog of the Treasury on duty in the House, took the war path yesterday as far as the District of Columbia appropriation bill is concerned.

KILLS BONUS PLAN.

He first proceeded to kill the \$120 bonus for policemen and firemen, which they had been anticipating as a sort of "Christmas gift" from Congress. Then he caused to be struck

out the provision of \$35,000 for the support of the community center work in the public schools, upon which Congressman Mann of Illinois declared 50,000 people depend annually for education and pleasure.

Failure of the District bill to pass yesterday also is due to Congressman Walsh, who blocked the motion by calling for a quorum. Lacking patience to daily further with the bill, Congressman Davis of Minnesota, who is steering it through the House, let it go over until this afternoon.

FIREMEN PLACATED.

For the benefit of the policemen and firemen who were disappointed in the failure of the House to approve the \$120 bonus, members of Congress point out that relief will be forthcoming in the legislative bill.

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GIRL RETRACTS ASSAULT TALE

Thirteen-Year-Old Emma Warder, Would-Be Suicide. Exonerates Accused Marine.

By STAFF CORRESPONDENT.

INDIAN HEAD, Md., Dec. 18.—Two days ago pretty thirteen-year-old Emma Warder, believing herself dying from a self-inflicted wound near her heart, sobbed out that she had sought death because she had been attacked by a Marine on her way home from a moving picture show.

REFUSES TO ANSWER.

Today, on the road to recovery in the Naval Dispensary here, she declares this story was untrue; that the Marine, now under military arrest, never made any attempt to harm her; that he is her "friend."

And when asked to explain why she did not go home, but was found wandering about the streets of the town, disheveled and crying, shortly before midnight last Saturday, and why she later surreptitiously took her father's revolver from its hiding place, locked herself in her room, and tried to end her life, she turns her face away and refuses to answer.

Meanwhile, despite the girl's retraction of her charges, and the declaration that she will not prosecute, T. L. Kelley, the Marine she said I met in making my escape, a closely guarded prisoner. He will be held, it is said, until further investigation shows whether her original or her present story is true. The girl's condition is yet too weak to permit even much questioning.

Retraction of the girl's charges, announcement of which came through her family, leaves the authorities confused with a mystery, which only the girl herself will explain, and concerning which she refuses to say one word.

MYSTERY IN CASE.

The authorities would like to know where the thirteen-year-old girl was found at 9 o'clock, when it is said, she left the moving picture show with Kelly for "a walk in the woods," and a few minutes before midnight, when she was found wandering the streets by Government employes.

They would also like to know the exact part a second Marine, whom the girl at first described as her "rescuer" played in the story. After she had shot herself, the girl at first said Kelly, who was known as "Tom Jackson," had attacked her in the woods, but had been frightened away by another Marine, who heard her cries for help.

The authorities cannot understand why this "rescuer" did not take her home. She has been asked about this but refuses to answer.

REFUSES EXPLANATION.

To her own family the girl had steadily refused to make any explanation of her actions on the night of the alleged assault. Kelly, until after she had tried to kill herself, four days later. The story she told then came when she believed she was dying.

Now she says none of it was true except the fact that she did take a walk with Kelly.

Retraction of the story by the girl, and the announcement from the family that she will not prosecute Kelly, would not prevent court action if investigation indicates she was attacked. On account of her youth, an attack, regardless of circumstances, constitutes an offense, in this State, punishable by death.

SPECTACULAR CAREER.

O'Brien's career during the war was most spectacular. While a member of the Canadian flying forces, which he joined before America entered the war, he was shot down behind the German lines and captured. He was in a German hospital for many weeks, and after his recovery was ordered to a prison camp.

While en route to camp he escaped through the window of a moving train and made his way across Germany to the Dutch frontier, burrowing his way under the famous German wire entanglement erected along the border.

Since the war he had written a book reciting his war experiences and had been in considerable demand as a lecturer on war topics.

O'Brien was one of the very few orators who succeeded in escaping from the clutches of the Hun. On his return to England he was granted the longest interview with King George that monarch had permitted since the beginning of the war, having held the King spellbound for fifty-five minutes.

The actual experiences of this young officer, who was called "Smiling Pat," and who was but twenty-nine years of age, would inspire with envy a "movie" director specializing in faded thrills.

To begin with O'Brien was brought down in his machine from a height of 8,000 feet. He survived this plunge only to become a prisoner of the Germans.

Next he jumped from the train in which he was being conveyed to a prison camp in the interior of Germany, the rate of speed of the train being no less than thirty-five miles an hour at the time. After this he spent seventy-two days crossing German territory to Holland, most of the time crawling to avoid detection, and clad in full British uniform.

BRAVED WAR; DIES FOR LOVE

Pat O'Brien, Hero of Five Armies, Kills Self When Spurned by Wife.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 18.—

Hundreds of persons prominent in the local motion picture colony, who had recently been associated with Lieut. Pat O'Brien, officer of the Royal Flying Corps, and famed as a war aviator, were shocked today to learn that he had killed himself in a fashionably downtown hotel shortly before midnight.

The act followed an unsuccessful effort to effect a reconciliation with his wife, formerly Miss Virginia Elizabeth Allen, a famous beauty and movie actress, of Washington, D. C., from whom he had been separated.

USES ARMY PISTOL.

An investigation by the police today showed O'Brien ended his life with a .45 caliber army automatic pistol. The body was found after hotel attendants had broken down the door of his room after hearing a shot.

It was stated that the aviator had planned to go to San Francisco within the next few days to receive a war decoration from the British government at the hands of the British consul there, and had tried to see Mrs. O'Brien, known as "Virginia Dare," a motion picture actress. His wife is said to have told him over the telephone that she was ill but would see him today.

A LITTLE BIT OF CLAY.

O'Brien went to his room and never writing five communications to his wife, shot himself. Another note written by O'Brien and found near the body as it was being removed to an undertaking establishment follows:

"Only a coward would do what I am doing. But I guess I am one. With all my war record I am just like the rest of the people in this world—a little bit of clay."

"And to you, my sweet little wife, I go, thinking of you and my dear, sweet mother, my sisters and brothers. And may the just God that answered my prayers in those days I spent in making my escape from Germany once more answer them. And bring trouble, sickness, disgrace, and more bad luck than any one in this world has ever had, and curse forever that awful woman that has broken our home and has taken you from me."

BLAMES THE WOMAN.

"She caused this life of mine, that just a few minutes ago was so happy, to go on that sweet adventure of death."

"Please send what you find back to my dear mother in Mombasa, Ill. To the five armies I have been in, the birds, the animals I loved so well, to my friends, to all the world and to adventure, I say goodbye."

FAT O'BRIEN.

Beyond the accusation mentioned in O'Brien's note no reason was known today for the estrangement between his wife and himself. They had been married less than a year. It was stated, and came here last June.

Dr. Howard C. Seager, who had been O'Brien's physician, was quoted today as saying he believed the aviator was mentally unbalanced, due to his war experiences.

O'Brien's career during the war was most spectacular. While a member of the Canadian flying forces, which he joined before America entered the war, he was shot down behind the German lines and captured. He was in a German hospital for many weeks, and after his recovery was ordered to a prison camp.

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LIEUT. PAT O'BRIEN, of Mombasa, Ill., war hero, who killed himself in a Los Angeles hotel after failing to effect a reconciliation with his wife, formerly Miss Virginia E. Allen, of Washington, a movie actress.



REED FAVORS SOME LEAGUE

Wants Nation's Misunderstandings Ironed Out, Says Senator After Seeing Harding.

By JACK ROYLE.

International News Service.

MARION, Ohio, Dec. 18.—"Any league or association of nations built about a governing body which is supposed to have authority to enforce its decisions on the members is doomed to failure," Senator James Reed of Missouri, Democrat, said today after his conference with Senator Harding.

PEOPLE HAVE DECIDED.

The country, he said, had given its decision in regard to such a league in unmistakable terms, and any man who failed to heed that decision would be breaking faith with the American people.

He stated, however, that he favored arrangements either through an association or through diplomatic means for ironing out the misunderstandings among nations and so preventing wars. The plan calling for a referendum on the declaring of war he declared to be impossible and impracticable.

"It is all grief in the hopper," Senator Harding said today in discussing his conference of the last two weeks. "We are trying to grind out a product that we are sustaining and palatable to the American people."

Senator Harding announced that he had formulated in his own mind a plan for an international policy which he believed possible of accomplishment. That plan, he said, had been placed before many of his conferees, and he let it be seen that he was greatly encouraged over the approval they expressed.

Such approval, he indicated, had come from men of every shade of opinion, and had been endorsed by thinkers as widely separated as William J. Bryan and Senator A. B. Fall.

He let it be known that he awaited with the greatest interest the comments of Senator Reed of Missouri, with whom he discussed the plan today. The Missouri Senator is an irreconcilable of the irreconcilables so far as the League of Nations is concerned.

It is felt at Harding headquarters that Reed sacrificed more than any Democrat in public life by his strenuous opposition to the League and the Versailles treaty.

"Some say I did it to be stubborn," Senator Reed said, "but Senator Harding does not agree with that view."

VIEWPOINTS DIFFER.

Entirely different points of view from those of the Democratic Senator were encountered by Senator Harding in his other conferences today.

Senator Harry New will spend the weekend with the President-elect and is expected to discuss at length the present situation in Congress as well as international affairs. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, was scheduled to arrive some time during the day.

His first woman visitor, Mrs. Susan A. Radley, of Chicago, chairman of the National Committee of Quaker Descendants, informed Senator Harding it was her belief that the only proper solution of the international situation was to begin anew instead of basing any future plan on the present league and treaty.

Photo Drama of Creation—"Millions Now Live Who Never Did." Pythian Temple, 1015 5th St. Sunday, 7:15. No collection.—Adv.

ASKS NATIONAL VOTE ON ISSUE

Workers Plan "Direct Action" For Referendum Throughout United Kingdom.

URGE "SELF-DETERMINATION"

Forces That Forced England's Hand on Polish War Issue Three Demands.

DUBLIN, Dec. 18.—Seventy armed men attacked the Foulkham Barracks, in County Wexford, today. They were repulsed and driven off by British troops and policemen. The attackers used both bombs and rifles.

Two soldiers were killed and four others wounded when a military patrol was ambushed near Galway.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—Labor's direct action committee, which was formed to prevent Great Britain from going to war with Soviet Russia in behalf of Poland, may plunge into the Irish fight.

"WANTS REFERENDUM."

The platform of the Laborites, who are opening a fight for "Irish self-determination," was revealed today as follows:

1. Direct action on the part of British workmen to force the government's hand on the Irish question.

2. An attempt to compel Premier Lloyd George to abandon the reprisal policy.

3. A demand for a general referendum throughout the United Kingdom on the question of allowing Ireland to become an independent republic.

Search is being made throughout Dublin for the alleged Sinn Féin man who assassinated District Inspector O'Sullivan in Henry street, Dublin, yesterday.

A dispatch from Cork said that widespread reprisals were occurring in the Kilcommon district. Farms and crops are being burned and much live stock has been killed.

Announcement was made that the military inquiry into the origin of the fires at Cork last Saturday and Sunday would be private. It began today. A preliminary investigation already had been made. Maurice Healy, attorney for the Cork chamber of commerce, and the Cork Employers' Federation, were informed that lawyers would not be admitted. The military officials planned to conduct the investigation after the manner of a grand jury, calling witnesses one by one.

LLOYD GEORGE'S TRUCE PLANS NOT ABANDONED

MANCHESTER, Eng., Dec. 18.—Premier Lloyd George's efforts to bring about an armistice in Ireland have not been abandoned, says the Guardian today.

"Even now," continued the Guardian, "the premier has an emissary in Ireland discussing armistice terms with the Sinn Féin."

The Guardian is the leading liberal newspaper in Great Britain, outside of London.

U. S. LIBERTY BOND GIVEN FOR ERIN RELIEF FUND

The example set by former Senator James B. McInerney in sending \$100 to the Irish cause has been followed by James L. Purcell, 14 T street north-east, who today sent a check for \$5 to "aid the Irish in Ireland whose factories and homes were burned by British brutes."

The check, like that of Mr. McInerney, was turned over to Andrew J. Hickey, in charge of the Washington-Mallow committee, which is raising funds for the relief of thousands of men, women, and children in Ireland who have been deprived of food, clothing and shelter by arson and pillage raids of the British forces.

Mr. Hickey today received a letter signed A. N. Hawkins with a \$50 Liberty bond enclosed to aid the sufferers in Ireland. The sender expressed a wish that it were ten thousand times as much, and hoped that those who have plenty will give generously to the cause. Mr. Hickey stated today that more than \$14,000 has been pledged to the relief fund.

Mr. Hickey asks contributors to send their donations to William Phelan, president of the Washington Savings Bank, Tenth street and Grant place.

Women Win in Michigan.

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 18.—The right of women to hold elective office in Michigan was upheld by Judge Henry A. Mandell, in circuit court here yesterday.

Under the Michigan law, the court held, only qualified persons for an officeholder are citizens and electors.

Worth Eighty Millions—But Does Not Own the House of His Open Sister Bridget. See the Sunday Times.